

# LUC Report Summary of Conclusions-

## Chapter 1

### Opportunities for scheme improvement and mitigation

The advice below focusses upon areas in which the proposals could be altered to reduce effects upon the historic parkland and associated woodland and trees.

### Potential measures for avoidance, offsetting and mitigation

#### Area 7 Proposed Native Woodland Planting

1.1 It is strongly advised that Area 8 should be used for mitigation woodland instead of Area 7. This land is already separated from the parkland and planting here would not alter the parkland character to the same degree. Area 8 can be accessed via the underpass beneath the M6. This would avoid the need for a strip of land alongside the woodland belt, where tracking with vehicles would damage the roots of trees and threaten the health and integrity of the nature boundary trees that presently screen the M6. The long access track that is proposed abutting the trees, and which at one point drops steeply off a river terrace (too steeply to be routed that way) could then be completely avoided, with access being taken off Skirsgill Lane instead. Additional land between the M6 and Skirsgill Lane, east of the motorway, could also be planted, providing further mitigation.

It is not appropriate to plant mitigation woodland within the intact parkland, where there are parkland tree specimens associated with this estate. This would be out of character and would adversely alter long views from the house, and from the parkland back towards the house – and thus the setting of the listed building. It would not respect the historic character of the parkland as it runs down to the river in this location. As well as being valued for its historic character, the semi-improved grassland and specimen trees of The Park are of landscape and